

directed to a device,

(ii) receiving no replies from devices lying beyond said device,

(iii) detecting no traffic flowing in any lines to or from said device,

(iv) detecting changes to line status bits on lines connected to said device;

(b) (i) determining zero traffic on a line and a device being otherwise determined as not being broken, declaring the line as being broken,

(ii) declaring a line as being broken in step

(b)(i) after a predetermined period of time,

and

(c) processing steps (a) and (b) with lines having more than two ends, as if it were a single device from the point of view of breaks.

Please amend the claims as follows:

3. (Amended) A method of analyzing a communication network comprising determining a breakstate of communications devices connected in the network, by polling each device from a network management computer (NMC) which